

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-11

RSC-01 OMB-01 TAR-02 SPC-03 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00

COME-00 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 OIC-04 SIL-01 STR-08

TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-02 DRC-01 /180 W

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R 311455Z JAN 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3722

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ENRG, ETRD, EAGR, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD: PROPOSED SPECIAL SESSION OF BOARD

REF: STATE 18484 (NOTAL)

1. AT JAN 30 INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF UNCTAD SEC GEN PEREZ-GUERRERO (PG), ALL GEOGRAPHIC GROUPS AGREED PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES DO NOT WARRANT SCHEDULING AT HIS TIME OF SPECIAL SESSION OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TDB) EITHER TO DISCUSS INTERDEPENDENCE OR ENERGY CRISIS UNDER BOARD RESOLUTION 95(XII). SPOKESMAN (MEXICO) FOR GROUP OF 77 (DEVELOPING COUNTRIES) LEFT OPEN QUESTION OF FURTHER MEETING TO DISCUSS ISSUE. DEBATE ENSURED, HOWEVER, WHEN PRESIDENT (STAHELIN-SWITZERLAND) SUGGESTED NEXT INFORMAL CONSULTATION BE HELD BEFORE PG LEAVES OFFICE AT END OF MARCH. FRENCH AMBASSADOR STATED OTHER UN BODIES CONSIDERING ENERGY CRISIS AND URGED EARLIER REVIEW OF DECISION. HE SAID ANY DECISION TO CONVENE

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BOARD SHOULD BE TAKEN IN TIME TO ALLOW REPORT OF BOARD

TO BE READY FOR CONSIDERATION AT SUMMER ECOSOC, WHICH SURELY WILL DISCUSS MATTER. IT WAS AGREED TIMING OF NEXT INFORMAL CONSULTATION WILL BE DETERMINED AFTER APPROPRIATE DISCUSSION WITH GEOGRAPHIC GROUPS.

2. ATTEMPT BY REP OF EC COMMISSION (SALTER) TO MAKE COMMUNITY LOOK GOOD IN EYES OF LDC'S BACKFIRED WHEN SRI LANKA CHALLENGED STATEMENT. SALTER SAID COMMISSION WANTS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO LDC'S AND THEREFORE READY SHARE IN CONSTRUCTIVE DEBATE AT SPECIAL SESSION OF BOARD IF LDC'S WISH SUCH A MEETING. IN ANY SUCH MEETING, FOCUS SHOULD NOT BE SOLELY ON OIL BUT ALSO IMPACT ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (BOP) OF LARGE RISE IN OTHER COMMODITY PRICES NOTABLY CEREAL PRICES WHICH COSTING BOP OF LDC'S \$5 BILLION. SRI LANKA SUGGESTED IF COMMISSION READY BE RESPONSIVE IT HAD OPPORTUNITY DO SO IN CURRENT SERIES OF INTENSIVE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS BUT UNFORTUNATELY REPORTS HE HAD RECEIVED ON RESULTS OF CITRUS AND RICE MEETINGS INDICATED THERE HAD BEEN NO FORWARD MOVEMENT. HE ALSO ALLUDED TO LACK OF PROGRESS IN C-20 AND GATT MTN IN QUERYING WHETHER EC RALLY CONCERNED ABOUT LDC BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND TRADE PROBLEMS.

3. COMMENT: BY TIME INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS HELD, DECISION NOT CONVENE BOARD WAS FOREGONE CONSLUSION. WHILE WE CANNOT SUBSTANTIATE REPORT, WE UNDERSTAND THERE WAS NO SUPPORT IN AFRICAN GROUP FOR SPECIAL SESSION AND OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES (ALGERIA, LYBIA AND NIGERIA) STRONGLY OPPOSED. WE BELIEVE MUCH OF IMPETUS FOR SESSION CAME FROM INSIDE SECRETARIAT, WHICH SEEMED EMBARRASSED BY TOTAL LACK OF SUPPORT FOR IDEA FROM LDC'S. PG TRIED TO JUSTIFY CONVENING OF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS BY STRESSING IMPORTANT MEETINGS IN UNCTAD CALENDAR FOR 1974. STATEMENT, HOWEVER, WAS LENGTHY, UNFOCUSED AND EMBASSASSINGLY DEVOID OF SUBSTANCE. WHILE ISSUE OF SPECIAL SESSION HAS BEEN PUT TO REST FOR MOMENT, FURTHER CONSIDERATION REMAINS OPEN AND WILL DEPEND ON COURSE OF FUTURE EVENTS INCLUDING RESULTS OF US-SPONSORED MEETING OF MAJOR OIL CONSUMING COUNTRIES. BASSIN
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